

Good news for grad civil servants

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Housing allowance to be doubled from next month

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TAN SRI ISMAIL ADAM

SEREMBAN: The housing allowance for graduate civil servants will be almost doubled, from RM210 to RM400 from Jan 1.

Those in the DG43 and DG44 categories would benefit, said Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Ismail Adam.

Graduate civil servants in the DG41 and newly-created DG42 categories would have their housing allowance increased from RM210 to RM250.

The move will benefit an estimated 150,000 civil servants.

"However, this benefit will not include the police, prisons, fire and rescue and armed forces personnel as they have their own schemes," Ismail said in a circular.

Police officers with the rank of inspectors and chief inspectors now get RM420 in housing allowance.

Ismail said the increment would also benefit eligible civil servants in local authorities, statutory bodies and state governments and agencies.

In a separate circular, Ismail said civil servants who were fluent in certain foreign languages would be given a monthly allowance of between RM100 and RM150 if this helped them in their official duties.

"This benefit will be given to Malaysian civil servants based at our missions abroad as well as to those working here and required

to deal with foreigners," he said.

He said the foreign languages were Arab, Mandarin, French, Russian and Spanish.

Ismail said those who had basic knowledge of a foreign language would be paid RM100 and those who were fluent would be given RM150 a month.

"They will have to submit their certificates to their department heads for consideration," he said.

He said the Government would stop paying the allowance to the civil servant if he was no longer required to converse in the foreign language.

"The civil servant would also no longer be entitled to the allowance if he is on leave for 28 straight days or is on study leave for more than three months," he said.

Cuepacs president Omar Osman said the increase in housing allowance should also be extended to civil servants in the Support group who now received RM180 every month.

"The bulk of the civil service is made up of employees in the Support group. Although we welcome the government's decision to raise the housing allowance for graduates, why have those in the Support group been left out?" he asked.

Omar said the PSD should increase the housing allowance for this group to RM230.